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Naohiro Yasuda, S.N. 10/007,279   **CENTRAL FAX CENTER**   Dkt. No. 2271/66021
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discussed in more detail in the specification at pages 11-12 in connection with Fig. 3.

Kazumasa (JP10-233925) proposes an approach wherein a reference white image is read

from a white plate, and for each pixel in the white image data, a determination of whether or not

the pixel is abnormal is made based on a horizontal window of five pixels including the subject

pixel, the two pixels immediately to the left of the subject pixel, and the two pixels immediately

to the right of the subject pixel (see Kazumasa Japanese-language reference, page 5, Equation I).

Kazumasa further proposes that for each of the plural pixels of the white image, an

indication of whether the white image pixel is abnormal is stored, and thus memory is allocated

for storing the collection of such indications (that is, pixel is abnormal or normal) for the plural

white image pixels. Kazumasa proposes that when a target original image is read by the scanner,

whether the read image data for a specific pixel is corrected is determined based on consideration

of the stored abnormal white image pixel indications of the corresponding horizontal window of

white image pixels, that is, the central white image pixel corresponding to the read image data

pixel, the two white image pixels immediately to the left of the central pixel, and the two white

image pixels immediately to the right of the central pixel (see Kazumasa Japanese-language

reference, page 5, Equation II).

Accordingly, Kazumasa is concerned with identifying the position corresponding to the

abnormal white image pixel. In the approach proposed by Kazumasa, the information regarding

the positions of abnormal white image pixels (as embodied in the stored indications) is utilized

to determine whether the corresponding pixels in the read image data of the target original image

(as opposed to the white image) require correction, and determine the particular correction, if

any, to be made to a corresponding pixel in the read image data.

Kazumasa neither disclose nor suggests that before an image of an original document is

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read, a predetermined value corresponding to a peak value of standard white image data is set as the standard white image data for a pixel that is determined to be abnormal, and therefore claim 1 is patentable over Kazumasa.
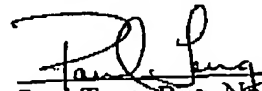
Independent claims 6 and 8 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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